

## OBSERVATIONS BY THE EDITOR.

## Something About Conditions in Missouri.--What Has Happened to the State Binding Twine Factory?

Really, I feel sorry for Uncle Eli Ake of the Iron County Register. All along he has enjoyed the reputation of being the ablest newspaper man in Southeast Missouri. He has been regarded as fearless and just. But it seems to be another case of a good man gone wrong.

The State Tribune of Jefferson City is as much a machine organ as is any other sheet that depends on the machine for support. In his last issue, Uncle Eli prints an article from the Tribune which he says he "heartily commends," and adds that "every word of the paragraph is true."

Let us analyze the article section by section and see how much truth there is in it. The first section reads: "The national government lacks nearly eighty million of having enough money to meet the appropriations of Congress, and yet Republican newspapers are wont at stated intervals to dilate upon the wonderful balance sheet of the nation. Things are different in Missouri. All the appropriations of the Legislature are being met, the state has been paid out of debt, the tax rate is the lowest in the Union, the state institutions have been laden with money and there are three and one-quarter millions in the treasury the last day of April, 1904."

In the first place, I want to call the reader's attention to the Tribune's old trick of working on the prejudices of the people by trying to show that it is the Republicans who are the rascals, because the "national government lacks nearly eighty millions of having enough money to meet the appropriations."

And after calling attention to that other statement that "all the appropriations of the legislature are being met," I want to ask Uncle Eli and the Tribune to tell us how much of the appropriation to build a binding twine factory has been met?

Watch Uncle Eli hide out! The appropriation to build a twine factory at the penitentiary to relieve the farmers from the clutches of the twine trust was the only worthy measure passed by the last legislature. And it is the only appropriation that did a bit of good.

The million dollar appropriation to allow the governor and his staff and the fifteen-dollar-a-day World's Fair Commissioners to slosh around at the public's expense, and all other graft appropriations have been met, but the one single appropriation that would have benefited the farmer is ignored.

"The state is out of debt," says the article. Any citizen of Scott county can examine the records of the last session of the county court. He will find the rate of taxes fixed for the coming year. Among other things he will find, for state purposes, "interest two cents on the one hundred dollar valuation." If the state is out of debt, why this assessment for interest? Write to your county clerk, Mr. Taxpayer, for an explanation, and then send his answer to the Kicker for publication.

"There are three and one-quarter millions in the treasury the last day of April, 1904," the article continues. How deceptive!

As everybody knows, the various county collectors make annual settlements in March, and by April the state has received all the tax-money for the year, and the treasury is full. From this money all legislative appropriations must be met, and the affairs of the state conducted for the ensuing year.

Uncle Eli knows it and the State Tribune knows it, that when the legislature meets there is not a dollar to be had, and that the State Treasurer must violate the law and pay off the members on the promise that the necessary appropriations will be made. During the legislative sessions of 1900-7 and 1908-9 Treasurer Pitts refused to thus violate the law and his refusal, office, and members of the legislature had to discount their warrants at the banks. Do you remember anything about that, Uncle Eli?

"The tax rate is the lowest in the Union," shouts the Tribune. This is not true, but even if it were true, what has the present gang got to do with it? The state constitution fixes the tax--and that was adopted forty years ago. If they had said that--aside from corporations--Missouri has the highest assessment, then they would have come nearer the truth.

The Tribune continues: "How will the people of Missouri reconcile this array of facts with that pipe dream and fiction about bad government, corrupt officials and a monstrous ring? True, there have been corrupt men at Jefferson City, but they belong only to the legislative branch. Their hands are not in

the treasury. The people of the various parts of the state are responsible for their being there at all, and the Republican party put four-fifths of them in office. Dockery, Allen, Cook and Williams are running the finances, and a marvelously good job they have done. If there can be raised one iota of criticism over the management of these men, if a single penny has gone astray, no man has the temerity to make such a charge."

So the corrupt men at Jefferson City belonged only to the legislative branch, did they?

Who was it that bribed the so-called horsebreeders' bill through the legislature? In his testimony in the Caldwell case, did not Sam Cook admit that he did it, and did not Gov. Stevens testify that Sam told him there was a good fee in it--\$5,000, I believe.

Who was it that formed himself into a "Missouri Health Society" and gave to Missouri its present "pure food law" if it was not the junior United States senator from Missouri?

Who was it that lobbied against the bill providing for a reduction in stock yards charges if it was not Selbert, Cook & Co?

Who signed all the infamous laws that have been forced upon the people in recent years if not the various governors?

And yet you hold the little one-horse legislators responsible because they listened to the men whom you had taught them to believe were immaculate.

And the Tribune concludes: "If a single penny has gone astray, no man has the temerity to make such a charge."

Let us see about that. Something over two years ago Republican papers--and some that were not Republican--charged that affairs of state were not straight. Things got pretty warm, and Gov. Dockery ventured a big bluff. "The books are open," proclaimed the governor, "anybody can examine them."

Much to his surprise the St. Louis Star advised his bluff, and the governor called the Star that the examination could begin "within a few days" and that he would notify the Star when to send on its experts.

Immediately the Star employed the firm of Haskell & Sells of New York and Chicago to conduct the examination. In the meantime the administration was conducting a little examination of its own, and got in such a mess that Haskell & Sells were called in to help them out, and an examination went on that strung out for months, and the Star, nor anyone not in the employ of the administration was ever allowed to investigate.

Why?

Answer, Uncle Eli! Why did Gov. Dockery back down from his agreement to let the St. Louis Star examine the books?

But the above wishwash taken from the Jefferson City Tribune and reproduced by the Iron County Register is the sort of clap-trap that the voters of Missouri have been fed upon for years. To put it mildly, it is the rankest deception. And I am surprised at Bro. Ake attempting to hold a position that he knows he cannot defend.

In conclusion I want to ask Uncle Eli to whom he referred, three years ago, when he said they were "running the Democratic party to hell, on a down grade and a greased track."

Then there's Clay Moseley, of the Bloomfield Vindicator. Among other things he accuses himself of sending back a check for ten dollars sent him from Folk headquarters to publish some advertising matter in Mr. Folk's interest.

Men intimately acquainted with Mr. Moseley will not believe his statement. They will never permit themselves to believe that Clay would ever return a penny no matter from what source it came, nor for what purpose.

But that is where such men lack the cunning of the editor of the Vindicator. Had he accepted the ten dollars and printed the stuff sent him by the supporters of Mr. Folk, then Sam Cook would have run the blue pencil across the name of the Bloomfield Vindicator--and there would have been the constitutional amendments job gone.

And Clay Moseley is not the man to take ten dollars in hand when there is \$194 in a bush that only needs shaking. See?

I do not know whether Folk's headquarters sent ten dollars to get advertising matter in the Vindicator or not. If they did, they overestimated the importance of the sheet, and sent

\$9.95 too much.

However, there has been much money contributed to the Folk campaign fund, and such money could be spent in no more legitimate way than to buy space in an unfriendly paper. The editor's right to comment upon the merits or demerits of such matter is not curtailed, and upon these terms the machine can have all the space it wants in the Kicker at regular advertising rates.

Above I am giving space to one of their heaviest articles free of charge. It's worth a good deal to show on what flimsy ground they stand.

## The Minton-Bollinger Shooting.

Lum Jones of Rockview was here Monday and, in relating the story of the shooting of Leo Bollinger by Chas. Minton, said that Bollinger was perfectly sober and inoffensive; that Minton was shamefully abusive without cause; that after he was shot Bollinger took the pistol from Minton and pointed it at him; that Minton begged for his life; that Bollinger lowered the pistol and turned to go, when he again pointed the pistol at Minton's head; that Minton again begged him not to shoot; that Bollinger afterward said, "I am glad I did not shoot him, I am in bad enough fix as it is, and I would feel much worse if I had killed him."

All this disturbance occurred in a place that is under bond to keep an orderly house. One or two poor devils were brought here on a charge of aiding and abetting Minton in getting away, but the "orderly house" was not interfered with.

Bollinger is still at Fredericktown, and his chances for recovery are fair. He is under the care of Dr. George Pressnell, brother to Dr. Pressnell of Oran. The bullet was located under the left kidney, but was not extracted. Certainly it seems that Minton ought to be easily captured. He is about six feet tall, raw-boned, high cheek bones, sandy complexion, small features, about 45 years old and has a stiff knee. Locally he is stubby, sandy mustache and no chin beard--a very hard-looking character.

## FROM ROCKVIEW.

The store building now occupied by Drury & Co. is for sale. It is a good substantial building 42x60 feet and well located for a mercantile business. For further particulars apply to or write.

J. A. Kern, Kelso, Mo.

Joe Shumey, the powder man at the quarry, blockaded the county road and tore down a lot of Frank Felder's fence with rock Friday.

Frank Amrhein of Bleda made his regular Sunday visit near Rockview. What's the attraction, Frank?

Quite a crowd of young folks met at Frank Felder's Sunday evening, and had music and a fine time.

Geo. Rosenberg and Joe Mirgoux of Bernie visited here last week.

J. P. Holmes is trying his hand at horse-swapping. Look out.

Lum Jones had business in Oran and Benton Monday.

Sim Jones was at the Cape Saturday on business.

The brickyard is progressing nicely.

## Notice To Committeemen.

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Scott County Central committee is called to meet at the court house in Benton, at 1:30 o'clock, p. m. on Saturday, May 28, 1904, for the purpose of deciding the time and method of selecting delegates to the state delegate convention to be held at Joplin on June 29.

S. J. Wade, Chairman, L. L. Hunter, Sec.

## FROM GRAYSBORO.

Mrs. Geo. Hawkins has had a full-grown case of mumps. George says he has had everything that the patent medicine men guarantee to cure, but he can find no "sure cure" for mumps, and fears he will get them.

Just as they were laying the last stones on pier No. 3, a laborer fell into the river and was drowned. It will never be known how many lives the building of such a structure costs.

What do you think of a man going fishing and taking a jug of lemonade along?

Boys were born to Mr. and Mrs. Hornback and to Mr. and Mrs. Billman.

Miss Annie Hawkins is arranging to go into the poultry business. Ed Daily and family of Commerce are new residents of this place.

Wm. Curtis is putting up a two story building. We now have two officers on police duty.

## FROM CARY.

Most of our boys took in the ice cream and strawberry festival at Blodgett Saturday night and report a fine time.

Quite a number of young folks from Blodgett were out fishing Thursday. The mosquitoes did all the biting.

John Johnstone and brother have gone to Kirkwood for the summer. Ed Chearing is here buying lumber--to build a dance hall, he says.

Frank Baty of Tennessee is visiting his brother, J. W., this week. Henry Wyatt and wife are visiting friends below Blodgett.

Noah Culer is home from Graysboro and our girls are happy. Florence Green of Blodgett is now making this her home.

E. Laceywell's little child is very sick at this writing.

## FROM CROWDER.

Mrs. Tillie Hodgkiss of near Benton is visiting her brother George here. Messrs. Finley, Riggs and English of Commerce visited Mrs. S. J. Kimbell last week.

A number from here attended the show at the Cape last week and report a good time.

Messrs. Huddleston and Whitmore had business at the Cape Monday. Miss Florence Cooksey visited in Sikeston Wednesday.

Box supper Saturday night for the benefit of the church. Come and help a good cause.

Mrs. Geo. Hodgkiss visited in Morehouse last Friday. Mrs. Rhoda Finley and son visited relatives near Cary Sunday and Monday.

Two new factories going up. This town isn't dead yet.

## FROM HICKORY GROVE.

Rev. Lowry preached Saturday and Rev. Howle Sunday and Sunday night to good audiences.

They say the revenue from post boxes will build us some decent roads at least.

Boys, when you come to church, come inside. You won't be hurt. Aunt Mary West of near Morley visited relatives here last week.

Quite a number dined at Joe Dickerson's Sunday. Several went fishing Friday and caught--? Melon bugs to beat the band.

## Receiver's Sale at Vanduser.

On next Monday Receiver N. F. Townes will sell the merchandise and store fixtures of the late firm of M. A. Jones & Co. at auction. Contrary to the announcement made last week, all will be offered in a lump at one outcry, and the bids will be received on a percentage of the invoice price. For instance, if a bidder bids 50 per cent of the invoice price, it means that he is willing to pay half what the goods cost originally.

## FROM ORAN.

A boy was born to Mr. and Mrs. Ed L. Miller Saturday and baptised Joseph Edward at the Catholic church Sunday. The sponsors were Mr. and Mrs. Jos. Miller. The parents are especially proud, for of the six children born to them this is the first boy.

A party consisting of Messrs. Marshall, Stearns, Tanner, McKnight, Roby and Tuckett and Misses Mitchell, Jackson, Fink, Denjoy and Clemson spent an enjoyable evening with Miss Bess Moore Saturday.

Next Sunday is the day set for the children of the Catholic congregation to partake of their first communion, and a large attendance is expected.

Grant Adams and Geo. Bechle are preparing to build residences on their recent purchases on the hill above.

For sale, a lot of good haled and unlabeled timothy hay. Apply to K. Meiderhoff, New Hamburg. 29-2t

The young folks had quite an outing Sunday, taking their suppers and spending the evening in the woods.

A harlequin and an evening with Miss Bess Wylie were enjoyed by a few of our young folks Friday.

The Catholic congregation rehearsed at the opera house for their coming entertainment almost daily.

Rev. Lowry is assisting Rev. Randolph in a series of meetings at the Bryan schoolhouse.

The town board met Tuesday evening to complete the second reading of its ordinances.

The Misses Jackson and Miss Riley of New Madrid are visiting Robt. Wright's family.

Mrs. Sam Tanner and Mrs. Osborn of Sikeston visited Miss Bess Moore this week.

Hal Moore and wife of Cape Girardeau spent a few days with relatives this week.

The dedication of the new altars at the Catholic church will occur on June 21.

Rudolph Scholtz bought a house and land at ex-orator's sale Monday. Miss Anna Finley entertained a party of friends Monday evening.

The Home Mission Society cleared about \$50 at its recent bazaar. Keep in mind the entertainment at the opera house Tuesday night.

Miss Deloma Shobe of Morley spent a few days here this week. Thos. J. Pryor of Cairo had business here Tuesday.

Chas. S. Kenney and wife are visiting Mrs. K's parents.

Mrs. Alex. Wright is visiting in Benton this week. Mrs. T. F. Hinkle's health is improving.

## FROM MACEDONIA.

Some few people with long tongues and brawling carle can set a whole community by the ears.

Girls and women can't always be judged by their wrappers. This remark is copyrighted.

Douglas, the Chester monument man, put up David Spradlin's monument Monday.

Miss Lois Williams is home from a two-weeks' visit to relatives at Holcomb.

Little Merrie Williams is recovering from a slight spell of bronchitis. Mr. and Mrs. Bert Sharp will make their home with the bride's mother.

Potato crops are bad but the potato-bug crop is just splendid. Misses Lois Williams and Belle Matthews are on the sick list.

John Sanders says he is going to rest. May I be there to see?

It's hot enough now, but we have had too much rain. Charley Henning is building an addition to his barn.

L. L. Smith will teach our next term of school. Whooping cough here and there in these hills.

Clover harvest has begun in this vicinity. The corn is about all planted.

## FROM McMULLIN.

Sunday morning Will Grant and Will Stacey quarreled on the road near here and Stacey knocked Grant down. In the struggle on the ground which followed Grant inflicted several wounds on Stacey's body with a knife. Stacey was taken to Crowder, where it took fifteen stitches to patch him up. Barring blood poisoning, he will recover. Both are our neighbors' boys.

Crowder's ball team came over on Sunday and our boys walloped them 22 to 11. This is our first victory this year.

Miss Belle Gauthier is visiting her sister, Mrs. J. P. Rauney. She attended our League Sunday and gave an excellent rendition.

Misses Jessie Dickerson, Clara Miller, Lena Mason and Hattie Ellis were here Saturday.

Our League is progressing. Every one on the program responded Sunday evening.

John Dill, our merchant, says they are having a glorious revival at Sikeston.

Dick Burks and Mrs. Amelia Finley of Blodgett were in our vicinity Saturday.

Come to the basket dinner June 5 and bring a well filled basket.

Miss Pauline Menz visited friends in Oran Monday and Tuesday.

The bugs are almost making a clean sweep of the melons here. Wheat here is all headed out and we expect a fair crop.

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Ellis visited Joshi Mason Sunday.

Ann Joe Phelps is staying with Miss Ethel Joyce.

Parham Stone was in New Madrid county Sunday.

Geo. Clifford planted his corn crop last Saturday.

## FROM NEW HAMBURG.

Excavation for the foundation of the school building is well under way. The building will be 47x72 and three stories high with a nine foot basement. Nick Reissen, of Luxembourg, Germany, will do the concrete work.

Anton Bittel, son of Conrad Bittel, deceased, and Regina Bittel, daughter of Sam Bittel, were married Tuesday at the Catholic church. The usual entertainment followed at the home of the bride.

Geo. Jones & Co., at Edna, have a nice line of groceries, lunch goods, china, glass and Queensware, and pay the highest price for butter and eggs.

August Halter had his two young sons here Tuesday, and Pete Schenck says they are the finest in the neighborhood.

Peter Schenck and Prof. Schulte were at Kelso Sunday, and Father Holmlander of Oran was here.

Uncle Mike Dimberger ventured over from Oran and appeared to be almost a stranger here.

The marriage of Charles Trinkler and Mary Bertrand is announced for next Tuesday.

A big boy was born to Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Bittel on the 14th.

Leo Graben and family visited in the Sandyswoods Sunday.

Twenty-two children will take their first communion Sunday.

## FROM MORLEY.

N. L. Atwood, Mrs. Lulu Nations and Miss Agnes Offert have been elected as our school teachers for the coming term.

The Festival given by the Ladies of the Baptist church was well attended Tuesday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. F. Bryans attended the Sells & Dornas show at Cairo Monday afternoon.

Miss Jessie Hughes came up from Sikeston Sunday to spend a few days with friends.

Lorenz Tomlinson and Pearl Harris made a round trip to Oran Sunday.

Tony Layton and family visited his brother George at Vanduser Sunday.

Miss Stella Marshall of Sikeston is visiting Mrs. J. J. Hunter this week. Joe Merritt is having electric lights and fans put in his saloon this week.

P. H. Boyce is treating his house to a new coat of paint.

## FROM VANDUSER.

Geo. Layton had his leg pretty badly cut while cutting logs last week, but is getting along all right.

Several young folks enjoyed ice cream at W. A. Hamilton's Sunday evening.

Our Sunday school continues to grow. We will soon reach one hundred.

We are all getting ready for Children's Day the second Sunday in June. Medames Vanduser and Woodward shopped in Oran Saturday.

Those who went to the show at the Cape were well pleased. John Lee and wife of Morley were here Sunday.

W. M. Cranatic and wife are visiting in Cairo.

L. P. Woodward is at the World's Fair. Get your ice on Saturday, boys.

## FROM SAVANNAH.

Joe Mackley of Blodgett spent a few days with home folks last week.

J. L. Howle and family of Morley visited Jan May and family last week.

The infant child of J. D. Huey is very sick at this writing.

Died on the 18th, the infant child of James Hodge and wife.

Miss Clara Darby is attending school at Morley.

Miss Clara Maddox was here last week.

## SENATORIAL CONVENTION

Nominated Joe Farris at Charleston--Senator Marshall's Record Not Indorsed.

The Senatorial convention met at Charleston Wednesday afternoon and nominated J. W. Farris, of Stoddard county to succeed Senator Marshall. The delegates present from Scott county were B. J. Ellis, Ed. Wylie, Wm. Howell, W. V. Miller, S. J. Wade, Phil. A. Hainer, Ed. Henderson, T. P. Stone, C. D. M. Geyton, Robt. Griggs, W. H. Stoddard, Sr., and J. H. Sherry.

Stoddard county had a large delegation accompanied by the Bloomfield band. New Madrid county was represented by Jim and Matt Conran and Jos. St. Mary. County Treasurer T. H. Patterson was present with the fourteen votes of Mississippi county in his vest pocket, and Mississippi county was all there or thereabouts.

Chairman Ladd, of Stoddard county, called the meeting to order and Judge Fort, of Stoddard, was elected Chairman and Wm. Holloway, of Mississippi, secretary. The various committees were appointed and while these were deliberating Joe Russell made a short talk.

George Houck made the speech nominating Mr. Farris and Charley Liles came over to inquire if there was an orator in the Scott county delegation who wished to second the nomination. He was informed that we had left all the wind jammers at home.

The nomination of Mr. Farris was made by acclamation, after which the nominee was brought in and delivered a speech of acceptance which was well received.

Nothing out of the ordinary occurred until the report of the committee on resolutions was read by Paul Moore of Mississippi. The resolutions endorsed Russell, Vandiver and Marshall.

Of course, there was a very large sprinkling of old politicians present, and they tried to work their old gag about "harmony," in order to get an indorsement for Marshall. But the Scott county delegation led the fight in opposition, and said they could not return home without entering a protest against the indorsement of what their people had already condemned.

Jim Conran, at the root of whose tongue lies the secret of perpetual motion, opposed the indorsement of Vandiver, and a pretty fight followed. On motion of Scott county, all reference to Russell, Vandiver and Marshall was stricken from the resolutions, and then what there was left passed--but there wasn't anything left.

New Senatorial committee: F. M. Ladd, Stoddard chairman; Dr. C. M. Reid, Mississippi, secretary; M. J. Conran, New Madrid; J. W. Green, Pettis; J. D. Bowman, Scott.

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS.

Probate court was in session Monday and Tuesday. Most of its time was taken up by a motion to set aside the administration by Mrs. Lydia Miller of the estate of her late husband, Harry Miller of Sikeston. The judge ruled for Mrs. Miller. An adjourned term will be held June 20th.

The well is as well as can well be expected, thank you. Essential parts of the machinery had been "borrowed" from the roller mill plant, and Mr. Damon has taken them away, as he needs them in his biz. Will tell you more when we know more.

Henry Schutte was here Monday to secure the services of Surveyor Warner to lay out an addition to the town of Edna. The original plat of eighty-six lots has nearly all been gobbled up, and the demand continues.

Mrs. E. F. Clair arrived from Hickman, Ky. Sunday, and is visiting her daughter, Mrs. J. J. Miller. She was accompanied by her son-in-law, H. L. Carpenter.

C. M. Smith of Sikeston writes us that no negroes have been killed at his place--our correspondent to the contrary notwithstanding.